

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Page 10, line 1 through Page 11, line 6 with the following (which corrects only those informalities identified by the Examiner on Page 3, line 1-4 of the Office Action):

Figure 3 shows a system 50 construction according to one aspect of the present invention. The system 50 comprises the photoconductor element 52 (which may be a belt or drum, but which is shown here in this non-limiting example as a belt), the primary surface charging corona device 54, the secondary corona device 56, the conductive stripe 58 which is separated from the photoconductor element 52 by a distance 60. The second corona device 56 overlays the conductive stripe 58 and does not extend significantly over (if at all) the remainder of the photoconductor element 52. When the primary corona device 54 applies a positive charge, the secondary corona device 56 would apply negative ions to the conductive stripe 58. Similarly, if the primary corona applies negative ions, the secondary corona device 56 would apply positive ions. The intervening imaging and toning stations are not shown for the convenience and simplicity of the figures.

Figure 4 shows a perspective edge view of a conductive sheet 80 (which may be a drum surface, sheet or endless belt) comprising a photoconductive top layer 82, a conductive intermediate layer 84 and a dielectric support layer 86. A conductive stripe 88 is shown as a complete element 88 in electrical contact with the three layers 82, 84 and 86, although it may be only a thin stripe coated on top of the photoconductive layer and possibly around the edge 90 formed by the three layers 82, 84 and 86. In a cutaway section, the secondary corona device 56 and its spacing 60 from the conductive stripe 88 are shown.

In order to ascertain that the conductive stripe is maintained at a reference voltage (in this case, as close as possible to zero volts (0V) is preferred), additional electronic servo hardware may be employed to monitor the surface potential and adjust the voltage (or current) of the second corona charging device. Figure 5 shows one embodiment of such a monitoring/adjusting system 100. Figure 5 shows a side view of a photoreceptor belt 101 (having the same construction as that shown in Figure 4) having a front surface 104 and a back surface 106. The second corona charging device 108 is positioned over

the conductive stripe **102**. The monitoring/adjusting system **100** may comprise an electrostatic probe **110** positioned (preferably, as close as possible) over the surface of the conductive stripe **102**, down stream of the second corona charging device **108**. (In this illustration the photoreceptor **101** is moving in a direction shown by arrow **112**). The monitoring and adjusting system **100** then comprises an electrical path **114** for the signal transmitted from the electrostatic probe **110** which is then sent to an error amplifier **116**. The error amplifier **116** then compares the signal from the electrostatic probe **110** with reference data **118** (in this case, ground or 0V). The signal then leaves the error amplifier **116** and is sent to a high voltage amplifier **120** that sends the appropriate voltage or current of the correct polarity to the second corona charging device **108**, to maintain the voltage at the desired potential (in this case, as close to 0V as possible).